

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-58 are pending.

Claims 1-44 and 46-58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishiguro et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,502,765 (“Ishiguro”). Claims 4 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious form Ishiguro in view of Carlisle et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,649,118 (“Carlisle”).

Applicants’ Reply

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 25, 32, 37, 41 and 54 to clarify the invention. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejections.

For brevity here, applicants do not reproduce but incorporate by reference herein the Remarks presented in the previous Reply. Applicants request that the Examiner should kindly consider those Remarks in the context of the presently amended claims.

Here, applicants note that the independent claims explicitly recite a comparison of a first and a second trusted time embedded in the respective storage devices of portable devices “so that the older trusted time information embedded on one of two portable devices is mutually replaced with the newer trusted time information embedded on the other portable device.”

Applicants submit that the amended claims are now clearly distinguished over Ishiguro. Ishiguro does not relate to transactions between two portable devices (i.e. cards). As discussed in the Remarks presented in applicants’ Reply filed October 14, 2005, Ishiguro does not show, teach or suggest comparing “trusted times” embedded on two portable devices and mutually replacing the “older” time embedded on one of two cards with the “newer” time embedded on the other card. In particular, Ishiguro does not disclose a comparison of trusted times on two portable devices “so that

the older trusted time information embedded on one of two portable devices is mutually replaced with the newer trusted time information embedded on the other portable devices,” as is explicitly required by applicants’ independent claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 25, 32, 37, 41, and 5, which include limitations for the mutual time updating between two portable devices, are patentable over Ishiguro.

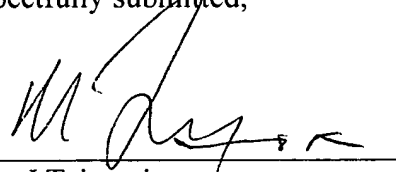
Additionally, dependent claims 2-24, 26-31, 33-40 and 42-53, and 55-58 also are patentable over Ishiguro for at least the same reasons as their respective parent claims.

Applicants respectfully request entry and allowance of claims 1-58.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of which are requested. If there are any remaining issues to be resolved, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to kindly contact the undersigned attorney by telephone for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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